



To join via [Zoom](#)

[GPSA Senate Absence Request Form](#)

[GPSA Senate Attendance Spreadsheet](#)

If you would like to add items to the agenda, please email the Executive Vice President by the Wednesday before Senate meetings. Minor edits to this agenda can also be suggested over email.

Pay close attention to the Guest Speaker. You are expected to engage in conversation and ask pertinent questions. Some prior research is encouraged so that questions and comments are well-informed.

Here is the agenda:

- 5:30 | Call to Order
 - Approval of Senate Meeting #6 Minutes
 - **Approved as written**
 - Approval to amend Senate Meeting #7 Agenda (new speaker added)
 - **Approved**
 - Approval of Senate Meeting #7 Agenda
 - **Approved**
- 5:31 | Announcements
 - Senator Nomination:
 - **Voted and appointed** Brittany Michael as the Senator for College of Veterinary Medicine
 - **Voted and appointed** Sarah Fakhoury as the Senator for School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
 - Proposed Exception to By-Laws Elections
 - Proposed to keep the election time as the Spring break is still on
 - No spring break in Spring 2021, so one-time clarification of March 17 week for the election.
 - Will vote on this in first Spring Senate meeting
 - Programming Updates
 - [Christmas Bingo, Friday, December 4th](#)
 - Local business gift cards for prizes.
 - [Open Committees](#)
 - Housing and Dining Systems Review Committee
 - Student Affairs needs GPSA rep for Housing & Dining System Review process. Contact: gpsa.university@wsu.edu
 - Graduate Student Concerns
 - Working Group: Looking at the data and preparing a report
 - Page on the GPSA website for the working group



- Send working-group recommendations to University Affairs for Spring 2021 term.
- 5:45 | Guest Speaker- [TaMisha Greathouse](#), Associate Director, Student Involvement
 - GPSA Advisor
 - Working to support RSO, graduate and undergraduate students
 - Previously worked with UCLA
- 5:55-6:00| Dialogue with **TaMisha**
- 6:00 | Guest Speaker – **Zack Turner**, Executive Director, Washington Student Association
 - WSA, a student legislative body for higher education
 - Founded by students at WWU, UW, and WSU.
 - Represents 150,000 students from 15 different campuses.
 - Focused on lobbying.
 - Non-profit and non-partisan.
 - Funded by student dues.
 - Many successful legal victories for students' rights.
 - Founded by WSU and University of Washington
 - Advocate for students
- 6:10-6:15 | Dialogue with Zack
 - What are you looking for in the open positions?
 - One student has to be from WSU and another from a different school. For more about WSA Executive Committee open positions (two spots available with description and application form, check [here](#)
 - To stay in touch, sign up [here](#)
 - If we know other people from other schools, can we pass this to them?
 - Yes! Absolutely.
 - What do you see been the most problematic that WSA can advocate for this year and legislators?
 - COVID advocacy in terms of investing in graduate students for long-term dividends, including expansion of student health plans and reproductive health support
- 6:15 | Guest Speaker – Marie L. Gray, Health Promotion Liaison, Health Promotion and Graduate School, Cougar Health Services
 - Advocate graduate students need
 - Worked collaboratively with various departments to prepare report; identifies students need on all WSU campuses
 - The reason for the assessment is due to the increase of mental illness and diagnosis
 - In addition, an increase in depression and anxiety during COVID-19.



- The reason for the report is for WSU to take a step forward on the prevention side before things get worse
- The assessment will show where the graduate students are at and what the mental health and medical needs are and how we can support them
- Identifying specific areas of mental health and suggestion guidelines for new mental health programs
- 6:25-6:30 | Dialogue with Marie
 - Sometimes, students experience a delay whether their appointment application is approved and how soon the mental health service would be available.
 - It is good information to have as someone tried to use the service. I will talk with Becky Meyer about ways to get around that or if there is something we can do to reduce the wait time period.
 - I have a question about national out of pocket, do you know how many students reached that amount?
 - I am not sure about the number, but I can look it up and get back to you.
 - Are you aware what the national out of pocket is right now?
 - Not currently
 - Estimate, guess?
 - I am not sure
 - Is it 2,500?
 - 7,000\$
 - Oh! Ok! Thank you
- 6:30-6:40 | Guest Speakers– [Dr. Davi L. Kallman](#), Access Advisor, WSU Access Center and [Mikayla Beckley](#), Disabled Students and Allies Club (DSAAC)
 - Dr. Davi L. Kallman, Access Advisor and awareness coordinator
 - Mikayla Beckley is the VP of the Disabled Students and Allies Club (DSAAC)
 - Senior undergraduate in genetics and cell bio
 - 90 members in the club including 10 graduate students
 - We want to ensure students are supplied with skills and knowledge to excel in academically and professionally.
 - Disability Awareness Symposium March 29-April 2nd.
 - It will be virtual and it will include mental health workshops and physical fitness classes
 - Open to all students to attend
 - It will include:
 - An art show on heart and mind showcasing students with disabilities
 - An hour celebrating pet companions
 - Scuba diving speaker who created adaptive scuba program



- Wesley Hamilton is the keynote presenter and representative of disability community
- For more information, visit <https://accesscenter.wsu.edu> to see full list of events
- Or contact us

Contact Information

- Phone: 509-335-3417
- Email: Access.Center@wsu.edu
- Website: accesscenter.wsu.edu
- Location: Washington Building 217 –north entrance (same building as Cougar Health Services)

- Director: Meredyth Goodwin: m.goodwin@wsu.edu
- Assistant Director: Rochelle Dach rochelle.dach@wsu.edu
- Advisor and Awareness Coordinator: Dr. Davi Kallman davi.kallman@wsu.edu
- DSAAC Representative: Mikayla Beckley: mikayla.beckley@wsu.edu



- Although the catering and room reservation fees are no longer needed, the cost of assistive technology did go up.
- Primary website for the Access Center is <http://accesscenter.wsu.edu>.
- Asking for \$2500 in funding from GPSA as a sponsorship.

- 6:40-6:45 | Dialogue with Davi and Mikayla
- 6:50 | Guest Speaker – [Brain Shuffield](#), Director of Student Involvement
 - Thanks to the GPSA for sponsoring the student involvement series
 - New series will be January 12-February 23rd and it will run every Tuesday night at 7 PM
 - 7 live events by college touring performers
 - Asking for \$1500 in sponsorship money from GPSA
- 6:55 | Dialogue with Brain Shuffield
 - Is there a limit for signing up for the events?
 - Events may be capped at 200-300 students, depending on the live event(s). But theoretically, most events can host as many people virtually as want to attend.

[This is where senators should be prepared to ask questions of our guest speaker. They have taken time out to reach out to us and want to hear from you. Having no questions or comments shows that we have no feedback to provide. That is seldom the case!

The best way to prepare is to 1) reach out to your constituents: Ask, “What would you want to say to the Director of CHS.” 2) Do some research: Not a lot, but poke around the website and



make sure you know a thing or two. 3) Listen actively: If you aren't actively listening to the guest speaker, are you best serving the student body?]

- **6:55-7:05 Open Floor**
 - How has COVID-19 affected your research this semester and your plans for Spring?
 - After discussion, we will take some time to hear responses
 - COVID-19 affecting research like limiting data collection
 - It also makes communication difficult or more complicated process
 - Working from home is challenging
 - Someone might test positive in your lab or office
 - Working in groups outdoors is a quite a challenge
 - Handling death in family even if it is not COVID-19 related because we are at home
 - How do you grieve with your support systems who are away from Pullman
 - That is affecting academic performance and our ability to do research.
 - We do the same thing every day. It is like a spin wheel feeling and we can't move ahead. Things that take minutes or hours. Now, they take a full day.
 - We have been living the same day every day since March
 - Depression is a big issue.
 - Doing in person research is impossible.
 - It is hard to connect with colleagues
 - Making time to go to the office is a lot difficult.
 - Most of students postponed their research from summer to Fall and now, they are still postponing.
 - They do not know what will happen in the future
 - There is an issue in the department that it is expected to gather data in person
 - This led to postponing research and affected student future plans
 - Many graduate students have had to alter plans and timelines due to COVID, in terms of research and graduation.
 - COVID also changing the work environment dynamics, from standard socialization and physical workspaces to PPE concerns and emotional well-being impacting productivity.
 - There are obviously a lot of issues, including COVID fatigue and mental-health stability.
 - Is there a way to expand pet-friendly housing opportunities in graduate residences?
- **7:05 - 7:10 | New Business**
 - VP Corner – Senator Scholarships and Attendance
 - Executive Committee meeting soon to discuss and finalize. Payments go out in December at the end of the semester.
 - [Maternal Mental Health Group](#), WSU Department of Psychology
 - Support group for graduate-student mothers with children under the age of 5



- For information about the [Maternal Mental Health Group](#), contact GPSA Senator **Reanne Cunningham** at reanne.cunningham@wsu.edu
- Sponsorship Votes: Sponsorships over \$1,000 always go up for a full Senate vote
 - Sponsorship Vote - Access Center \$2,500
 - **Approved**
 - Sponsorship Vote - Student Involvement \$1,500
 - **Approved**
- 7:25 | **Checkout question**
 - Ideas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of GPSA in the spring.
 -
- **Adjourned at 7:28 PM**



GPSA Executive Board Reports

GPSA Executive Board Reports November 7th - 27th, 2020

The lists below are not meant to be comprehensive. If you need clarification or have any questions, please contact the corresponding individual.

President's Report – Jenn Johnson

- Tasks Completed
 - Completed commencement speech and recorded for 12/10 ceremony
 - Sent emails to WSU housing officials for Housing
- Working Group Meetings Attended
 - Attended GPSA Senate
 - Attended College Hill Matters meeting
 - Met with Mary Jo and student leaders to discuss Spring 2021 plans
 - Met with Office of International Programs
 - Led GPSA Exec Committee meetings
 - Attended GPSA office staff meeting
 - Attended SGC November meeting
 - Attended 3-day NAGPS National Conference
 - Met with Brian Shuffield to discuss GPSA concerns
 - Sat on the WSU Town Hall Student panel
 - Met with WSU administration to discuss GPSA concerns
 - Met with Student Involvement to discuss GPSA budget
 - Attended Faculty Senate
 - Met with AVPs and Mary Jo to discuss GPSA progress, plans, and issues
 - Met with Marie, Paula, and Jennifer to discuss report on Graduate Student Health and next steps for health promotion

Vice President's Report – Samantha Edgerton

- Tasks Completed
 - Created Senate Meeting #6 agenda
 - Facilitated Senate Meeting #6
 - Edited and emailed Senate Meetings #6 Minutes
 - Answered questions related to RSO trainings and funding
 - Chaired Budget Committee meeting
 - Reviewed RSO affiliate funding applications
 - Reviewed and approved PCard Authorizations and ETR requests
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA Exec Board meetings
 - Met with GPSA Leadership and GPSA Advisor TaMisha
 - Met with Student Affairs AVPs
 - Faculty Senate
 - Met with Mary Jo and student leaders to discuss Spring 2021 plans
 - Met with Office of International Programs



- Attended GPSA office staff meeting
- Attended SGC November meeting
- Attended 3-day NAGPS National Conference
- Met with AVPs and Mary Jo to discuss GPSA progress, plans, and issues
- Attended Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) meeting

Vice President of Legislative Affairs Report – James Dalton

- Tasks Completed
 - Finalized Bill of Rights and sent to Admin and GPSA Execs for edits
 - WSU Legislative proposals
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA Senate
 - Meeting with Mary Jo, Provost Chilton, and President Schulz
 - Meeting with Student Affairs AVPs
 - GPSA Town Hall
 - NAGPS National Conference
 - GPSA Exec Board Meeting
 - WSA Legislative Liaison Meeting
 - SGC Meeting
 - SGC Legislative Meeting
 - GPSA Office Staff meeting
 - Meeting with Office of International Programs
 - GPSA Legislative Affairs Committee Meetings
 - WSU Student Veterans Task Force Meetings

Chair of Awards and Scholarships – Rabayet Sadnan

- Tasks Completed
 - Updated Dissertation Grant application requirements
 - Processed two dissertations
- Meetings Attended
 - November 7 and 27: Attended Executive Board meetings
 - November 9: Attended GPSA Senate meeting

Chair of Communications Report – Adnan Mohamed

- Tasks Completed
 - Attended Executive Board meetings (Nov 10 & 17) and took minutes
 - Worked on GPSA Monday Minutes, submitted, and approval is in progress for November 30, 2020
 - Updated GPSA website
 - Posted on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)
 - Attended GPSA Senate Meeting (Nov 9) and took Senate Minutes
- Meetings Attended
 - Attended Executive Board meetings (Nov 10 & 17)
 - Attended GPSA Senate Meeting (Nov 9)

Temporary Chair of Community Affairs – VACANT



Chair of Internal Affairs Report – Mikala Meize

- Tasks Completed
 - Processed two Senate nominations
 - Updated nomination forms
 - Requested enrollment numbers for General Election
 - Panelist for First Generation panel
- Meetings Attended
 - Weekly Exec Board meetings
 - IAC meeting
 - Student Safety and Security Committee meeting

Chair of Programming Report – Rachel Wong

- Tasks Completed
 - Dropped off and picked up restaurant week sign-in sheets for ASWSU and GPSA
 - Communicated with vendors about administrative details for restaurant week administrative before and after the event
 - Emailed Chloe information about payment details for restaurant week
 - Put together poster for Christmas Bingo
- Meetings Attended
 - Exec Board Meeting
 - Meet with Alex Pan (ASWSU)
 - Meet with TaMisha (Spring 2021 programs planning)

Chair of Professional Development Report – Anika VanDeen

- Tasks Completed
 - Sent out gifts to speakers for the entire fall semester
 - Working with Bruce to set up next semester events
- Meetings:
 - Exec Board Meetings
 - Exec PDI meetings canceled the past few times

Chair of Travel Grants Report – Arian Karimitar

- Tasks Completed
 - Answer Travel Grants Emails (follow up awardees, new applications, etc.)
 - Complete the request of Zoom Grants renewal
 - Revise problems of Zoom Grants applications
- Meetings Attended
 - 11/10 and 11/17 Exec Board Meeting
 - 11/24 Stipend Working Group Meeting

Chair of University and Student Affairs Report – Anastasia Vishnevskaya

- Tasks Completed
 - Committees Reports
 - U&SAffairs: Strategic Plan Discussion



- Stipends Committees Reports
- U&SAffairs: Strategic Plan Discussion
- Stipends Working Group Discussion
- Meetings Attended
 - Weekly Exec Board meetings
 - GPSA Senate
 - University Affairs meeting
 - Stipends Working Group
 - RAC Meeting
 - Faculty Senate Library Committee Meeting